

a) a polynucleotide at least 90%-95% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

b) a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90%-95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Amended) A polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is a DNA.

3. (Amended) A polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is an RNA.

B1
4. (Amended) A polynucleotide according to claim 2, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

B2
8. (Amended) A vector pCR2.1citAint, comprising:

- a) an internal fragment of the citA gene having a length of 480 bp, as set forth in SEQ ID. NO:3,
- b) the restriction map of which is reproduced in figure 1; and
- c) deposited in the E. coli strain Top10/pCR2.1citAint (DSM No. 13998).

B2
cont 9. (Amended) An internal fragment of the citA gene having a length of 480 basepairs, as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Please add following new claims 20-23.

20. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1.

B3 21. (New) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a fragment of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the full complement thereof.

22. (New) A polynucleotide according to claim 21, wherein said fragment is a probe or primer.

23. (New) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 21.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

B4 {The present invention is related to nucleotide sequences encoding a sensor kinase, citA, from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.}

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

This response is timely filed as the deadline for taking action (no fee due) is today, March 6, 2003. Accompanying this response is a substitute specification, a marked-up